

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 19, 2007. Claims 1 to 23, 29 and 30 remain pending in the application, with Claims 24 to 26 and 33 to 47 having been cancelled herein. Claims 1, 9, 14, 18 and 29 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner and his supervisor for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment accorded Applicants' undersigned representative during the July 30, 2007 telephonic interview. This Amendment has been prepared based on the discussions and agreements reached during that interview and it is respectfully submitted that the following summarizes the substance of the interview.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 3, 5, 9, 12 to 15, 18, 23 to 25 and 27 to 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,378,070 (Chan), Claims 4 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Chan in view of Newton, Claims 6 to 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 37 and 38 were rejected under § 103(a) over Chan, and Claims 39 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Chan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,420 (Tognazzini). Reconsideration and withdrawal the rejections are respectfully requested in light of the following comments.

The present invention provides the ability for hotel guests to easily upload and print out print data on a hotel printer. According to the invention, when a guest connects their laptop computer to a data port in their hotel room, a hotel server detects the connection, and assigns a network address (e.g., an IP address) to the laptop computer. The assigned network address is correlated in the hotel server with the guest's

identification information. The hotel guest then performs an operation using their laptop to upload the print data to a print service provider (PSP) server. For instance, the guest may access a website of the print service provider and select an option to upload a print job for printing. When the upload operation is performed, transparent to the user, the assigned network address is uploaded to the PSP server with the print data to be printed. For instance, the IP address may be obtained from the laptop and added to the HTML document of the print service provider's website when the data is being uploaded. Thus, the uploaded network address identifies a specific location (hotel room) from which the uploading process was performed. The PSP server stores the uploaded print data and the uploaded network address in correspondence with one another. However, in order for the guest to retrieve their print job, the PSP server needs to know more information about the guest (i.e., user identification information). The PSP server recognizes the uploaded network address as belonging to a particular hotel or hotel chain. Thus, using the uploaded network address, the PSP server queries the hotel server for user identification information of the hotel guest corresponding to the uploaded network address. The hotel server refers to its database of correlated guests and assigned network addresses to get the guest's identification information, and then responds to the query by providing the user identification information (e.g., hotel room key information or credit card information of the registered hotel guest) to the PSP server. The PSP server receives the user identification information from the hotel server and stores the received user identification information in correspondence with the uploaded print data. Then, when the hotel guest wants to print their print job, they go to a printer in the hotel and input their user identification information (e.g., swipe their room key or credit card, input a password, etc.)

at the printer. The input user identification information is transmitted from the printer to the PSP server, whereby the PSP server transmits the print data to the printer for printing.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to a method of printing over a network, comprising the steps of correlating user identification information of a user with location information corresponding to a location of the user, uploading, via the network, to a printing service provider, print data information and location information corresponding to a location from which the uploading is performed, determining, from the uploaded location information by referring to the correlated user identification information and location information, user identification information of a user corresponding to the uploaded location information, correlating, at the printing service provider, the determined user identification information of the user corresponding to the uploaded location information with the uploaded print data information, inputting the user identification information at a printing device connected to the network, transmitting the print data information having the correlated user identification information from the printing service provider to the printing device, and printing the print data information on the printing device.

Claim 29 is a computer medium claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 1. Claims 9 and 14 are directed to the respective servers that perform the various functions of the invention. Specifically, Claim 9 is directed to the hotel server while Claim 14 is directed to the printing service provider server.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 9, 14 and 29, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of uploading, via a network, to a printing service

provider, print data information and location information corresponding to a location from which the uploading is performed, determining, from the uploaded location information by referring to correlated user identification information and the location information, user identification information of a user corresponding to the uploaded location information, and correlating, at the printing service provider, the determined user identification information with the uploaded print data information.

Chan teaches a secure printing system in which a user retrieves a print job using a smart card. According to the patent, a print job is encrypted using private/public keys of a user and the job is uploaded to a print server where the job is securely stored. When a user inserts their smart card in a reader at a printer, the user's information contained on the smart card is transmitted to the print server, whereby the print server decrypts the print job and transmits the job to the printer. Thus, Chan merely teaches the back-end features of the invention for retrieving the print job, but does not teach the front-end features of the invention. In this regard, in Chan, the print job is encrypted with the intended recipient's public key (e.g., user information) before the uploading occurs. Thus, the print data and the recipient's user identification information are uploaded together. On the other hand, in the invention, the print data is uploaded with location information, whereby the print service provider server then uses the location information to query another server for the user identification information. Thus, Chan is not seen to teach the features of the invention.

The Office Action alleges that, because a TCP/IP connection is made between devices when the print data is uploaded, the IP address of one device is inherently uploaded to the other device. Even if this is true, the server does not then use the IP

address to determine user identification information, much less performing the determination by querying another server for user identification information corresponding to the IP address. Indeed, the “uploaded” IP address serves no function whatsoever for determining user identification information since that information is input at the client side by obtaining the intended recipient’s public key to be used for the encryption.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 9, 14 and 29 are not anticipated by Chan.

Newton and Tognazzini have been studied but are not seen to add anything that, when combined with Chan, would have resulted in the features of the invention. In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, independent Claims 1, 9, 14 and 29, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

Claim 18 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is directed to an aspect of the invention in which room key information (e.g., hotel room key information) is determined instead of determining user identification information, and in which the room key information is determined from uploaded user identification information instead of being determined from uploaded location information. With this aspect of the invention, the printing service provider may be the hotel itself and the PSP server may be in the hotel or part of the hotel chain so that the hotel server can readily determine the room key information from the user identification information. Specifically, Claim 18 is directed to a method of printing over a network, comprising the steps of correlating user identification information of a user with room key information, uploading, via the network, to a printing service provider, print data information, location information corresponding to a location from which the uploading is being performed, and user identification information corresponding to the location information, determining room key information based on the

uploaded user identification information by referring to the correlated user identification information and room key information, correlating, at the printing service provider, the determined room key information with the uploaded print data information, inputting the room key information at a printing device connected to the network, transmitting the print data information having the correlated room key information from the printing service provider to the printing device, and printing the print data information on the printing device.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to teach the features of Claim 18, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of uploading, via a network, to a printing service provider, print data information, location information corresponding to a location from which the uploading is being performed, and user identification information corresponding to the location information, determining room key information based on the uploaded user identification information by referring to correlated user identification information and room key information, correlating, at the printing service provider, the determined room key information with the uploaded print data information.

As discussed above, Chan is not seen to teach the feature of uploading location information. Moreover, as discussed above, Chan is merely seen to teach that print data is encrypted with a recipient's public key and the encrypted print job is then uploaded to be stored for printing later upon authentication of a recipient. While Chan may determine an intended recipient's public key to be used for the encryption based on the input of the recipient's identification information, Chan does so before the uploading. Additionally, a recipient's public key to be used for encryption is not the same as a room

key. Thus, Chan does not teach the feature of determining room key information as claimed in Claim 18. Therefore, Claim 18 is also believed not to be anticipated by Chan and is therefore believed to be allowable.

Newton and Tognazzini have been studied but are not seen to add anything that, when combined with Chan, would have resulted in the features of Claim 18. Thus, Claim 18, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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